

## CHAPTER V - SUMMARY OF FORECAST VERIFICATION

### 1. ANNUAL FORECAST VERIFICATION

#### a. WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

Verification of warnings at initial, 24-, 48- and 72-hour forecast positions was made against the final best track. The (scalar) forecast, along-track and cross-track errors (illustrated in Figure 5-1) were then calculated for each tropical cyclone and are presented in Tables 5-1A, 5-1B, 5-1C and 5-1D, as appropriate. The frequency distributions of forecast errors in 30 nm (56 km) increments for 24-, 48-, and 72-hour forecasts are in Figures 5-2A through 5-2C, respectively. A summation of the mean forecast errors, since 1971, is shown in Table 5-2A. Table 5-2B includes mean along-track and cross-track forecast errors for 1988. A comparison of the annual mean forecast errors for all tropical cyclones as compared to those tropical cyclones that reached typhoon intensity can be seen in Table 5-3. The mean forecast errors for 1988 as compared to the nineteen previous years are graphed in Figure 5-3.

#### b. NORTH INDIAN OCEAN

The positions given for warning times and those at the 24-, 48-, and 72-hour valid times were verified for tropical cyclones in the

North Indian Ocean by the same methods used for the western North Pacific. These error statistics should not be taken as representative of any trend due to the small sample number. Table 5-4 is the initial and forecast along-track and cross-track error summary for the North Indian Ocean. Table 5-5A contains a summary of the annual mean forecast errors for each year. Table 5-5B includes along-track and cross-track errors for 1988. Forecast errors are plotted in Figure 5-4 (Seventy-two hour forecast errors were evaluated for the first time in 1979). There were no verifying 72-hour forecast in 1983 and 1985.

#### c. SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS

The positions given for warning times and those at the 24-, 48-, and 72-hour valid times were verified for tropical cyclones in the Southern Hemisphere by the same methods used for the western North Pacific. It should be noted that due to the lack of verifying ground-truth data, these error statistics should not be taken as representative of any trend. Table 5-6A is the initial, forecast along-track and cross-track error summary for the southern hemisphere. Table 5-6B has the number of warnings verified at each forecast period. Table 5-7A contains a summary of the annual mean forecast errors for each year. Table 5-7B includes along- and cross-track errors for 1988. Forecast errors are plotted in Figure 5-5.

Figure 5-1. Definition of cross-track error (XTE), along-track error (ATE) and forecast track error (FTE). In this example, the XTE is positive (to the right of the best track) and the ATE is negative (behind or slower than the best track).

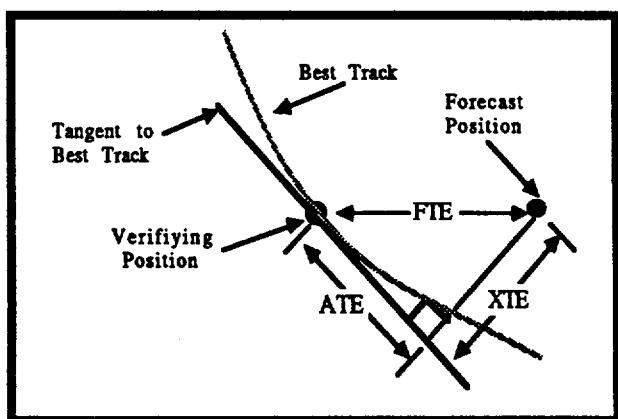


TABLE 5-1A

**INITIAL POSITION ERROR SUMMARY  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN  
1988 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES**

TROPICAL CYCLONE	ERROR (NM)	SAMPLE SIZE
(01W) TY ROY	13	41
(02W) TY SUSAN	18	17
(03W) TD 03W	19	6
(04W) TY THAD	24	20
(05W) TS VANESSA	27	11
(06W) TY WARREN	19	30
(07W) TS AGNES	33	8
(08W) TS BILL	12	5
(09W) TS CLARA	24	6
(10W) TY DOYLE	14	24
(11W) TS ELSIE	28	6
(11W) TS ELSIE*	27	4
(12W) TY FABIAN	21	18
(13W) TS GAY	33	6
(14W) TY HAL	18	37
(01C) TY ULEKI	17	21
(15W) TS IRMA	17	16
(16W) TS JEFF	15	9
(17W) TS KIT	26	12
(18W) TS LEE	21	15
(19W) TS MAMIE	36	4
(20W) STY NELSON	10	30
(21W) TY ODESSA	16	22
(22W) TY PAT	17	17
(23W) TY RUBY	24	30
(24W) TY SKIP	18	30
(25W) TY TESS	14	10
(26W) TS VAL	57	10
 TOTALS	 23	 465

\* REGENERATED

TABLE 5-1B

SUMMARY OF 24-HOUR FORECAST ERRORS  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN  
1988 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES

TROPICAL CYCLONE	FORECAST ERROR (NM)	ALONG-TRACK ERROR		CROSS-TRACK ERROR		SAMPLE SIZE
		MEAN*	MEDIAN	MEAN*	MEDIAN	
(01W) TY ROY	123	104	-28	47	13	37
(02W) TY SUSAN	146	100	-85	85	-32	13
(03W) TD 03W	169	127	**	104	**	4
(04W) TY THAD	143	103	-95	90	-49	16
(05W) TS VANESSA	194	180	**	54	**	7
(06W) TY WARREN	86	61	-25	46	24	28
(07W) TS AGNES	322	271	**	134	**	5
(08W) TS BILL	119	106	**	52	**	3
(09W) TS CLARA	89	36	**	79	**	3
(10W) TY DOYLE	106	82	-50	61	-50	20
(11W) TS ELSIE	283	250	**	104	**	2
R(11W) TS ELSIE	129	127	**	19	**	2
(12W) TY FABIAN	141	94	-46	77	9	14
(13W) TS GAY	98	64	**	66	**	3
(14W) TY HAL	122	89	-76	61	-16	33
(01C) TY ULEKI	82	47	4	58	24	19
(15W) TS IRMA	76	42	11	54	-1	14
(16W) TS JEFF	64	47	**	34	**	5
(17W) TS KIT	96	58	**	63	**	8
(18W) TS LEE	127	110	-101	41	-29	11
(19W) TS MAMIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
(20W) STY NELSON	64	45	-11	34	-11	26
(21W) TY ODESSA	100	56	-52	75	-29	18
(22W) TY PAT	140	110	-110	60	37	13
(23W) TY RUBY	109	82	-17	53	0	26
(24W) TY SKIP	99	85	-5	41	7	29
(25W) TY TESS	57	49	**	24	**	8
(26W) TS VAL	228	152	**	146	**	6
TOTALS	114	85	-45	58	-9	373

\* THE MEAN WAS COMPUTED FROM ABSOLUTE VALUES.

\*\* THE MEDIAN WAS NOT COMPUTED FOR INSTANCES OF TEN CASES OR LESS.

\*\*\* FORECASTS WERE NOT ISSUED OR DID NOT VERIFY.

R = REGENERATED

1. THE MEAN IS THE SUM OF ALL THE VALUES DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS.
2. THE MEDIAN IS THE MIDDLE VALUE OF THE SAMPLE.
3. THE ALONG-TRACK ERROR COMPONENT IS HOW FAR THE WARNING POSITION WAS DISPLACED AHEAD OR BEHIND THE BEST TRACK POSITION. THE SAMPLE CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS: THE MEAN (DISTANCE) AND THE MEDIAN (NEGATIVE VALUES WERE BEHIND TRACK OR SLOW, AND POSITIVE VALUES WERE AHEAD OF TRACK OR FAST).
4. THE CROSS-TRACK ERROR COMPONENT IS HOW FAR THE WARNING POSITION WAS DISPLACED TO THE LEFT OR RIGHT OF THE BEST TRACK POSITION. THE SAMPLE CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS: THE MEAN (DISTANCE) AND THE MEDIAN (NEGATIVE VALUES WERE LEFT OF TRACK AND POSITIVE VALUES WERE RIGHT OF TRACK).

TABLE 5-1C

**SUMMARY OF 48-HOUR FORECAST ERRORS  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN  
1988 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES**

TROPICAL CYCLONE	FORECAST ERROR (NM)	ALONG-TRACK ERROR		CROSS-TRACK ERROR		SAMPLE SIZE
		MEAN*	MEDIAN	MEAN*	MEDIAN	
(01W) TY ROY	246	196	-62	119	22	33
(02W) TY SUSAN	378	344	**	106	**	9
(03W) TD 03W	***	***	***	***	***	0
(04W) TY THAD	274	233	-223	123	-81	12
(05W) TS VANESSA	386	352	**	158	**	3
(06W) TY WARREN	152	118	-52	74	56	23
(07W) TS AGNES	714	706	**	108	**	1
(08W) TS BILL	***	***	***	***	***	0
(09W) TS CLARA	***	***	***	***	***	0
(10W) TY DOYLE	316	258	-173	155	-173	16
(11W) TS ELSIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
R(11W) TS ELSIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
(12W) TY FABIAN	177	108	**	124	**	10
(13W) TS GAY	***	***	***	***	***	0
(14W) TY HAL	249	194	-122	130	-71	29
(01C) TY ULEKI	146	92	49	94	42	15
(15W) TS IRMA	94	76	**	45	**	10
(16W) TS JEFF	103	91	**	48	**	1
(17W) TS KIT	120	68	**	98	**	4
(18W) TS LEE	221	186	**	89	**	7
(19W) TS MAMIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
(20W) STY NELSON	128	88	8	70	-48	22
(21W) TY ODESSA	245	217	**	109	**	10
(22W) TY PAT	303	269	**	110	**	9
(23W) TY RUBY	162	121	-90	75	13	22
(24W) TY SKIP	199	164	-84	85	53	21
(25W) TY TESS	123	109	**	53	**	4
(26W) TS VAL	768	75	**	764	**	1
TOTALS	216	170	-100	103	-14	262

\* THE MEAN WAS COMPUTED FROM ABSOLUTE VALUES.

\*\* THE MEDIAN WAS NOT COMPUTED FOR INSTANCES OF TEN CASES OR LESS.

\*\*\* FORECASTS WERE NOT ISSUED OR DID NOT VERIFY.

R = REGENERATED

SEE TABLE 5-1B FOR EXPLANATIONS OF THE TERMS MEAN, MEDIAN, ALONG-TRACK ERROR AND CROSS-TRACK ERROR.

TABLE 5-1D

**SUMMARY OF 72-HOUR FORECAST ERRORS  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN  
1988 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES**

<u>TROPICAL CYCLONE</u>	<u>FORECAST ERROR (NM)</u>	<u>ALONG-TRACK ERROR</u>		<u>CROSS-TRACK ERROR</u>		<u>SAMPLE SIZE</u>
		<u>MEAN*</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>	<u>MEAN*</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>	
(01W) TY ROY	401	313	-150	202	77	29
(02W) TY SUSAN	423	385	**	121	**	5
(03W) TD 03W	***	***	***	***	***	0
(04W) TY THAD	329	315	**	75	**	8
(05W) TS VANESSA	***	***	***	***	***	0
(06W) TY WARREN	246	193	-106	113	96	16
(07W) TS AGNES	***	***	***	***	***	0
(08W) TS BILL	***	***	***	***	***	0
(09W) TS CLARA	***	***	***	***	***	0
(10W) TY DOYLE	626	516	-517	297	-517	11
(11W) TS ELSIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
R(11W) TS ELSIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
(12W) TY FABIAN	279	256	**	91	**	6
(13W) TS GAY	***	***	***	***	***	0
(14W) TY HAL	355	298	-124	151	-104	25
(01C) TY ULEKI	153	80	78	120	39	11
(15W) TS IRMA	158	39	**	135	**	6
(16W) TS JEFF	***	***	***	***	***	0
(17W) TS KIT	***	***	***	***	***	0
(18W) TS LEE	265	236	**	104	**	3
(19W) TS MAMIE	***	***	***	***	***	0
(20W) STY NELSON	148	92	15	103	-79	18
(21W) TY ODESSA	686	544	**	398	**	5
(22W) TY PAT	436	366	**	235	**	5
(23W) TY RUBY	210	112	-105	156	28	18
(24W) TY SKIP	260	202	-194	143	138	17
(25W) TY TESS	***	***	***	***	***	0
(26W) TS VAL	***	***	***	***	***	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>-159</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>183</b>

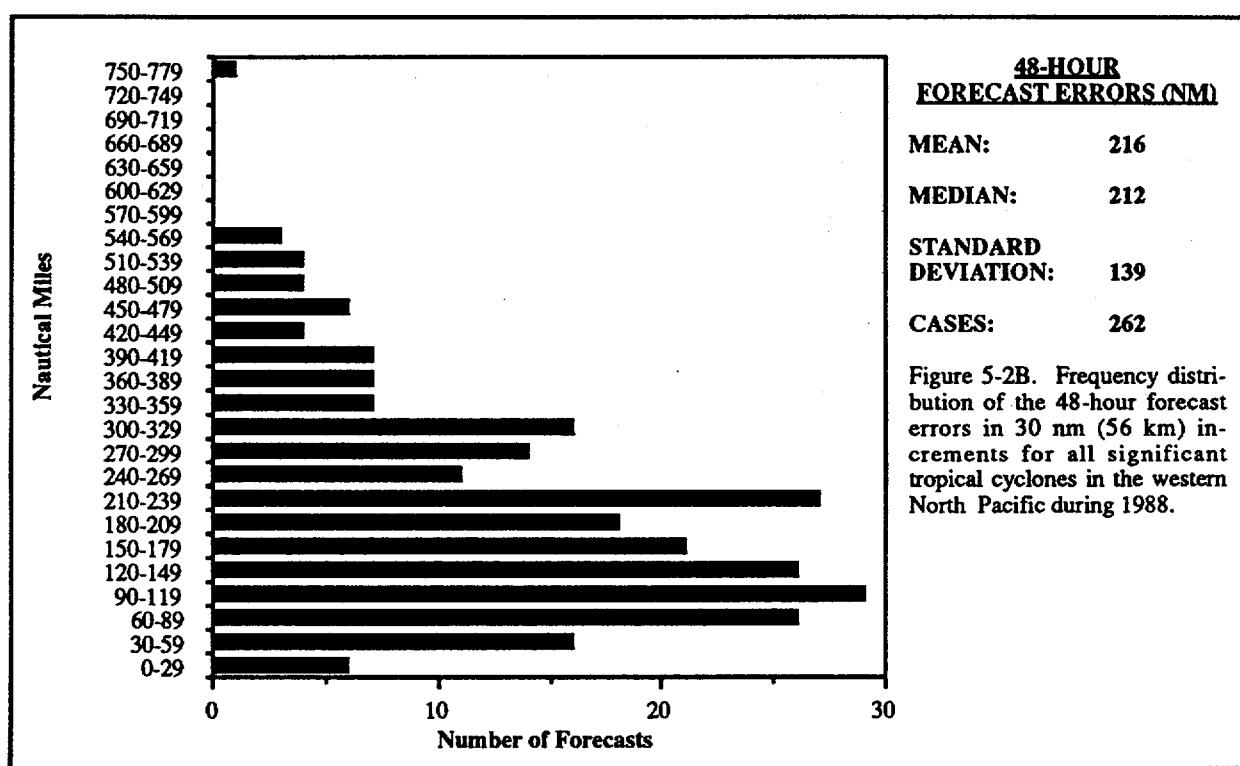
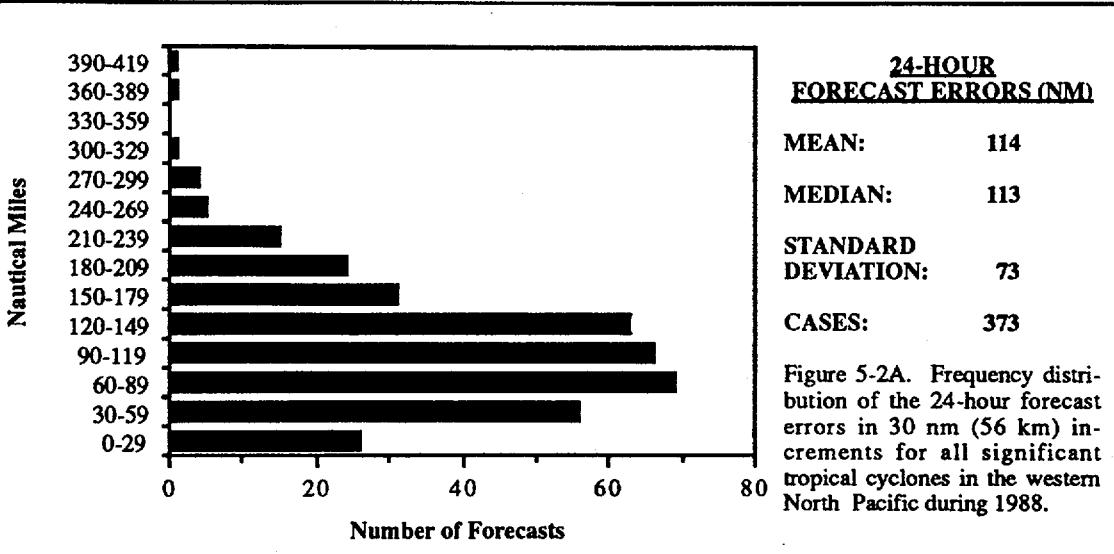
\* THE MEAN WAS COMPUTED FROM ABSOLUTE VALUES.

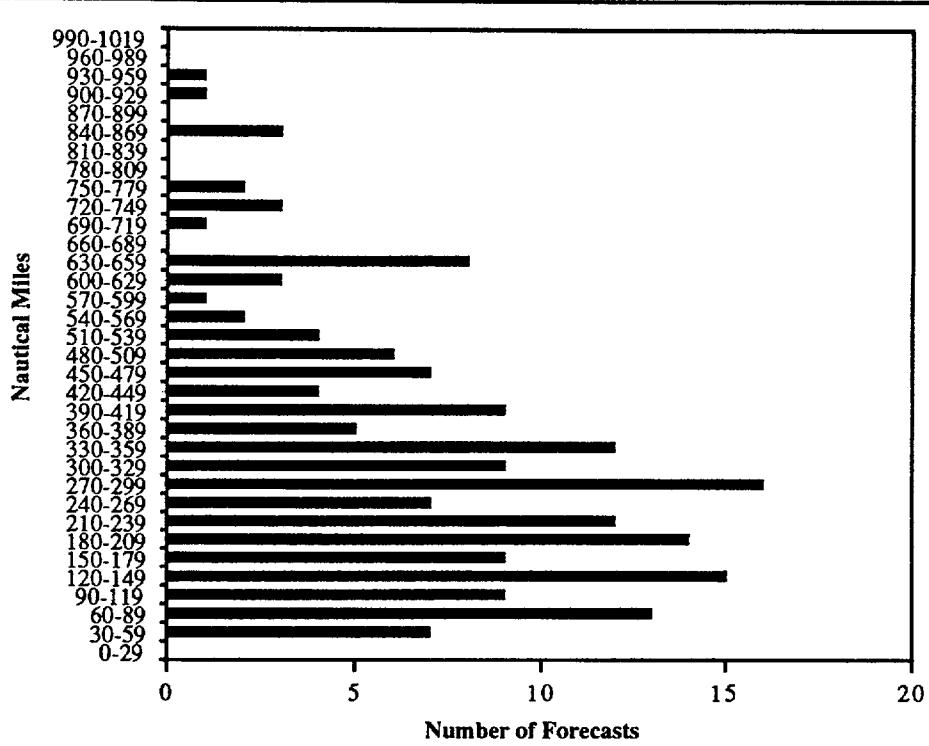
\*\* THE MEDIAN WAS NOT COMPUTED FOR INSTANCES OF TEN CASES OR LESS.

\*\*\* NOT ENOUGH WARNINGS WERE ISSUED TO VERIFY THE FORECAST.

R = REGENERATED

SEE TABLE 5-1B FOR EXPLANATIONS OF THE TERMS MEAN, MEDIAN, ALONG-TRACK ERROR AND CROSS-TRACK ERROR.





**72-HOUR  
FORECAST ERRORS (NM)**

MEAN: 315  
MEDIAN: 309  
STANDARD DEVIATION: 202  
CASES: 183

Figure 5-2C. Frequency distribution of the 72-hour forecast errors in 30 nm (56 km) increments for all significant tropical cyclones in the western North Pacific during 1988.

TABLE 5-2A

**ANNUAL MEAN FORECAST ERRORS FOR THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC**

YEAR	24-HOUR FORECAST RIGHT-ANGLE		48-HOUR FORECAST RIGHT-ANGLE		72-HOUR FORECAST RIGHT-ANGLE	
	FORECAST	RIGHT-ANGLE	FORECAST	RIGHT-ANGLE	FORECAST	RIGHT-ANGLE
1971	111	64	212	118	317	117
1972	117	72	245	146	381	210
1973	108	74	197	134	253	162
1974	120	78	226	157	348	245
1975	138	84	288	181	450	290
1976	117	71	230	132	338	202
1977	148	83	283	157	407	228
1978	127	75	271	179	410	297
1979	124	77	226	151	316	223
1980	126	79	243	164	389	287
1981*	123	75	220	119	334	168
1982*	113	67	237	139	341	206
1983*	117	72	259	152	405	237
1984*	117	66	233	137	363	231
1985*	117	66	231	134	367	214
1986	121	**	261	**	394	**
1987	107	**	204	**	303	**
1988	114	**	216	**	315	**

\* THE TECHNIQUE FOR CALCULATING RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR WAS REVISED IN 1981. THEREFORE, A DIRECT COMPARISON IN RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR STATISTICS CANNOT BE MADE BETWEEN ERRORS COMPUTED BEFORE 1981 AND THOSE COMPUTED SINCE 1981.

\*\* IN 1986, RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR WAS REPLACED BY CROSS-TRACK ERROR. (SEE FIGURE 5-1B FOR THE DEFINITION OF CROSS-TRACK ERROR).

TABLE 5-2B

**1988 MEAN FORECAST, ALONG-TRACK AND CROSS-TRACK ERRORS  
FOR THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN (ERRORS IN NM)**

<u>FORECAST</u>	<u>FORECAST ERROR</u>	<u>ALONG-TRACK ERROR</u>		<u>CROSS-TRACK ERROR</u>	
		<u>MEAN</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>
24-HOUR	114	85	-45	58	-9
48-HOUR	216	170	-100	103	-14
72-HOUR	315	244	-159	159	-11

TABLE 5-3

**ANNUAL MEAN FORECAST ERRORS (NM)  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>24-HOUR ALL / TYPHOONS*</u>		<u>48-HOUR ALL / TYPHOONS*</u>		<u>72-HOUR ALL / TYPHOONS*</u>	
1959		117**		267**		
1960		177**		354**		
1961		136		274		
1962		144		287		476
1963		127		246		374
1964		133		284		429
1965		151		303		418
1966		136		280		432
1967		125		276		414
1968		105		229		337
1969		111		237		349
1970	104	98	190	181	279	272
1971	111	99	212	203	317	308
1972	117	116	245	245	381	382
1973	108	102	197	193	253	245
1974	120	114	226	218	348	357
1975	138	129	288	279	450	442
1976	117	117	230	232	338	336
1977	148	140	283	266	407	390
1978	127	120	271	241	410	459
1979	124	113	226	219	316	319
1980	126	116	243	221	389	362
1981	123	117	220	215	334	342
1982	113	114	237	229	341	337
1983	117	110	259	247	405	384
1984	117	110	233	228	363	361
1985	117	112	231	228	367	355
1986	121	117	261	261	394	403
1987	107	101	204	211	303	318
1988	114	107	216	222	315	327

\* FORECASTS WERE VERIFIED WHEN THE TROPICAL CYCLONE INTENSITIES  
WERE OVER 35 KT (18 M/SEC).

\*\* FORECAST POSITIONS NORTH OF 35 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE WERE  
NOT VERIFIED.

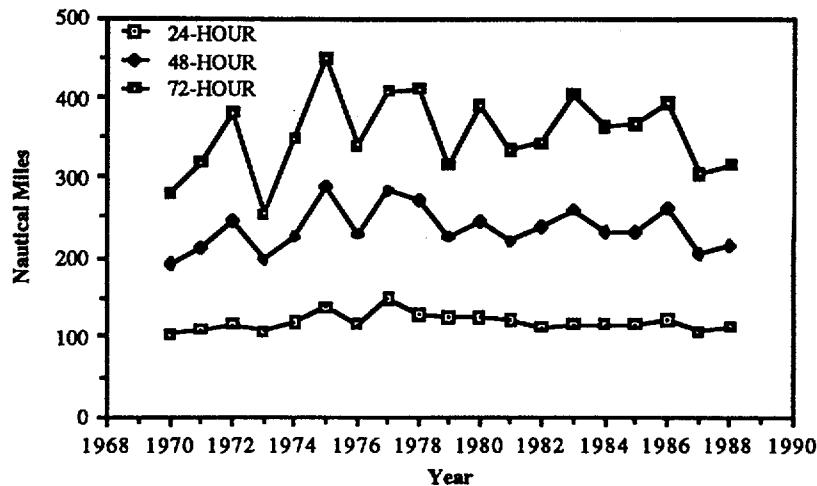


Figure 5-3. Annual mean forecast errors (nm) for all significant tropical cyclones in the western North Pacific.

TABLE 5-4

FORECAST ERROR SUMMARY FOR THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN  
1988 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES

TROPICAL CYCLONE	INITIAL POSITION		NUMBER OF WARNINGS
	FCST	ERROR (NM)	
TC 01A		61	10
TC 02B		30	3
TC 03B		28	3
TC 04B		22	22
TC 05B		37	6
TROPICAL CYCLONE	24-HOUR FORECASTS		CROSS-TRACK ERROR
	FCST	ALONG-TRACK ERROR	MEAN MEDIAN
TC 01A	188	172	** 58
TC 02B	--	--	-- --
TC 03B	--	--	-- --
TC 04B	90	64 -55	48 -10
TC 05B	171	92 **	143 **
TROPICAL CYCLONE	48-HOUR FORECASTS		CROSS-TRACK ERROR
	FCST	ALONG-TRACK ERROR	MEAN MEDIAN
TC 01A	484	155 **	456 **
TC 02B	--	--	-- --
TC 03B	--	--	-- --
TC 04B	186	107 -62	141 -100
TC 05B	--	--	-- --
TROPICAL CYCLONE	72-HOUR FORECASTS		CROSS-TRACK ERROR
	FCST	ALONG-TRACK ERROR	MEAN MEDIAN
TC 01A	--	--	-- --
TC 02B	--	--	-- --
TC 03B	--	--	-- --
TC 04B	409	227 -213	303 -306
TC 05B	--	--	-- --

\*\* THE MEDIAN WAS NOT COMPUTED FOR INSTANCES OF TEN CASES OR LESS.

TABLE 5-5A

## ANNUAL MEAN FORECAST ERRORS FOR THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN

YEAR	24-HOUR FORECAST RIGHT-ANGLE	48-HOUR FORECAST RIGHT-ANGLE	72-HOUR FORECAST RIGHT-ANGLE
1971*	232	410	---
1972*	224	101	292
1973*	182	99	299
1974*	137	81	238
1975	145	99	228
1976	138	108	204
1977	122	94	292
1978	133	86	202
1979	151	99	270
1980	115	73	93
1981**	109	65	176
1982**	138	66	368
1983**	117	46	153
1984**	154	71	274
1985**	123	51	242
1986	134	***	168
1987	144	***	205
1988	120	***	219

\* THE WESTERN BAY OF BENGAL AND ARABIAN SEA WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE JTWC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY UNTIL THE 1975 TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON.

\*\* THE TECHNIQUE FOR CALCULATING RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR WAS REVISED IN 1981. THEREFORE, A DIRECT COMPARISON IN RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR STATISTICS CANNOT BE MADE BETWEEN ERRORS COMPUTED BEFORE 1981 AND THOSE COMPUTED SINCE 1981.

\*\*\* IN 1986, RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR WAS REPLACED BY CROSS-TRACK ERROR. (SEE TABLE 5-1B FOR THE DEFINITION OF CROSS-TRACK ERROR).

TABLE 5-5B

1988 MEAN FORECAST,  
ALONG-TRACK AND CROSS-TRACK ERRORS (NM)  
NORTH INDIAN OCEAN

TIME	FORECAST ERROR	ALONG-TRACK ERROR		CROSS-TRACK ERROR	
		MEAN	MEDIAN	MEAN	MEDIAN
24-HOUR	120	89	-68	63	-34
48-HOUR	219	112	-39	176	-142
72-HOUR	409	227	-213	303	-306

SEE TABLE 5-1B FOR EXPLANATIONS OF ALONG-TRACK ERROR AND CROSS-TRACK ERROR.

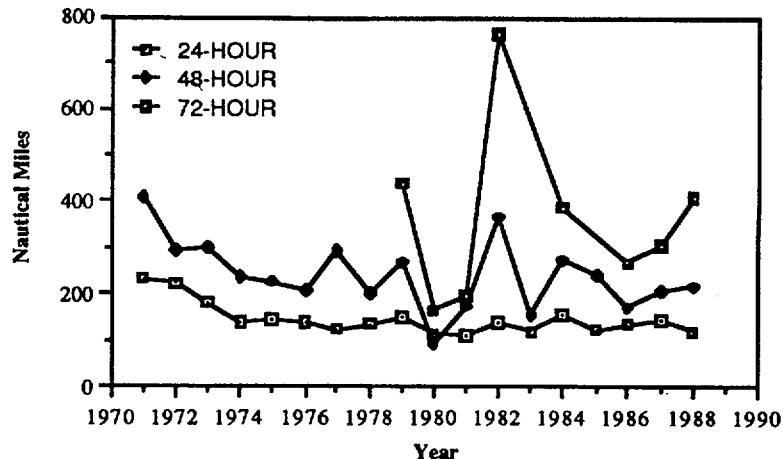


Figure 5-4. Annual mean forecast errors (nm) for all significant tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean.

TABLE 5-6A

FORECAST ERROR SUMMARY (ERRORS IN NM)  
SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS  
1988 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES

TROPICAL CYCLONE	INITIAL POSIT	24-HR FCST	24-HOUR		24-HOUR		48-HR FCST	48-HOUR		48-HOUR	
			MEAN*	MEDIAN	CROSS-TRACK	MEAN*		ALONG-TRACK	MEAN*	MEDIAN	CROSS-TRACK
TC 01S	33	125	56	9	98	24	216	148	84	137	71
TC 02S	21	57	54	**	18	**	***	***	***	***	***
TC 03S	34	128	88	**	73	**	273	176	**	164	**
TC 04P	58	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
TC 05S	39	158	125	**	81	**	517	507	**	98	**
TC 06P	63	242	212	-212	94	50	433	364	**	193	**
TC 07P	25	113	59	-6	78	-28	198	112	**	139	**
TC 08S	16	60	58	**	13	**	75	60	**	41	**
TC 09S	37	115	76	-68	59	-12	233	166	**	115	**
TC 10S	25	179	92	**	140	**	430	390	**	161	**
TC 11S	26	133	89	-22	79	-31	283	182	-41	193	-42
TC 12P	79	206	109	**	55	**	234	183	**	132	**
TC 13P	26	157	122	-89	102	31	337	190	-66	251	19
TC 14S	21	111	77	**	67	**	269	184	**	153	**
TC 15P	58	158	121	**	77	**	558	487	**	222	**
TC 16S	32	168	117	-50	112	-10	299	188	-56	185	4
TC 17S	21	205	108	**	166	**	375	301	**	160	**
TC 18S	20	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
TC 19P	22	118	95	**	51	**	292	275	**	84	**
TC 20S	18	139	11	**	139	**	277	276	**	17	**
TC 21S	33	207	191	**	66	**	***	***	***	***	***
AVERAGES	34	146	98	-63	83	3	290	246	-20	144	13

\* THE MEAN WAS COMPUTED FROM ABSOLUTE VALUES.

\*\* THE MEDIAN WAS NOT COMPUTED FOR INSTANCES OF TEN CASES OR LESS.

\*\*\* NOT ENOUGH WARNINGS WERE ISSUED TO VERIFY THE FORECAST.

SEE TABLE 5-1B FOR EXPLANATIONS OF THE TERMS MEAN, MEDIAN, ALONG-TRACK ERROR AND CROSS-TRACK ERROR.

TABLE 5-6B

**SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS**  
**NUMBER OF WARNINGS**

TROPICAL CYCLONE	INITIAL POSITION	24-HOUR FORECAST	48-HOUR FORECAST
TC-01S -----	20	18	15
TC-02S -----	5	1	0
TC-03S ARINY	10	7	6
TC-04P -----	2	0	0
TC-05S BERNANDRO	11	9	1
TC-06P AGI	3	1	0
TC-06P AGI*	12	5	2
TC-07P ANNE	14	6	3
TC-08S CALIDERA	5	2	1
TC-09S DOAZA	7	3	1
TC-09S DOAZA*	11	5	2
TC-10S FREDERIC	6	2	1
TC-11S GWENDA**	16	7	3
TC-12P CHARLIE	9	3	2
TC-12P CHARLIE*	3	0	0
TC-13P BOLA	20	9	4
TC-14S -----	6	3	1
TC-15P CILLA***	6	2	1
TC-16S GASITAO	16	7	3
TC-17S -----	7	3	1
TC-18S HELY	3	1	0
TC-19P DOVI	12	5	2
TC-20S IARISENA	3	1	0
TC-21S -----	3	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>49</b>

\* REGENERATED

\*\* ALSO NAMED EZENINA

\*\*\* NWOC SYSTEM

TABLE 5-7A

**ANNUAL MEAN FORECAST ERRORS (NM)**  
**SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS**

YEAR	24-HOUR		48-HOUR	
	FORECAST	RIGHT-ANGLE	FORECAST	RIGHT-ANGLE
1981	165	119	315	216
1982	144	91	274	174
1983	154	84	288	150
1984	133	73	231	124
1985	138	78	242	133
1986	133	**	268	**
1987	145	**	280	**
1988	146	**	290	**

\*\* IN 1986, RIGHT-ANGLE ERROR WAS REPLACED BY CROSS-TRACK  
 ERROR. SEE TABLE 5-1B FOR AN EXPLANATION OF CROSS-TRACK  
 ERROR.

TABLE 5-7B

**1988 MEAN FORECAST,  
ALONG-TRACK AND CROSS-TRACK ERRORS (NM)  
SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FORECAST ERROR</u>	<u>ALONG-TRACK ERROR</u>		<u>CROSS-TRACK ERROR</u>	
		<u>MEAN</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>
24-HOUR	146	101	-62	86	-1
48-HOUR	290	203	-100	166	-25

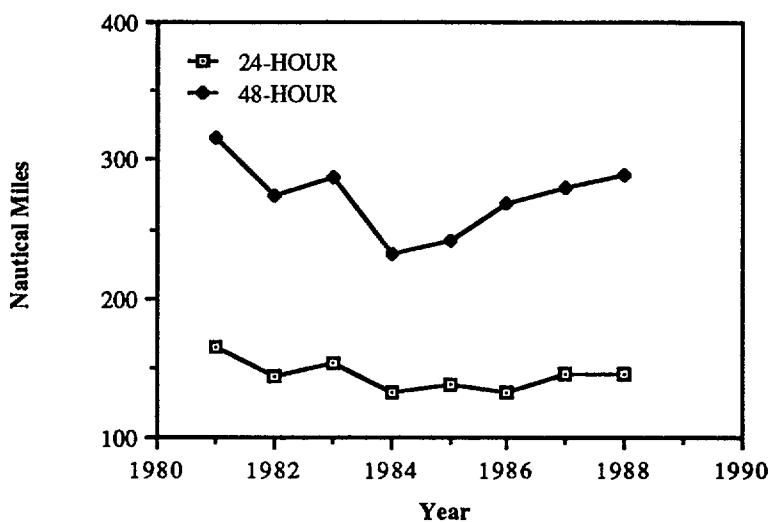


Figure 5-5. Annual mean forecast errors (nm) for all significant tropical cyclones in the South Pacific and South Indian Oceans

## **2. COMPARISON OF OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES**

### **a. GENERAL**

Objective techniques used by JTWC are divided into five main categories:

- (1) Extrapolation;
- (2) Climatological and Analog Techniques;
- (3) Model Output Statistics;
- (4) Dynamic Models;
- (5) Empirical and Analytical Techniques;

In September 1981, JTWC began to initialize its array of objective forecast techniques (described below) on the six-hour old preliminary best track position (an interpolative process) rather than the forecast (partially extrapolated) warning position, e.g. the 0600Z warning is now supported by objective techniques developed from the 0000Z preliminary best track position. This operational change has yielded several advantages:

(1) Techniques can now be requested much earlier in the warning development process, i.e. as soon as the track can be approximated by one or more fix positions after the valid time of the previous warning;

(2) Receipt of these techniques is virtually assured prior to the development of the next warning; and

(3) Improved (mean) forecast accuracy. This latter aspect arises because JTWC now has more reliable approximation of the short-term tropical cyclone movement. Further, since most of the objective techniques are biased towards persistence, this new procedure optimizes their performance and

provides more consistent guidance on short-term movement, indirectly yielding a more accurate initial position estimate as well as lowering 24-hour forecast errors.

### **b. Description of Objective Techniques**

(1) XTRP -- Forecast positions for 24- and 48-hours are derived from the extension of a straight line which connects the most recent and 12-hour old preliminary best track positions.

(2) CLIM -- A climatological aid providing 24-, 48-, and 72-hour tropical cyclone forecast positions (and intensity changes in the western North Pacific) based upon the position of the tropical cyclone. The output is based upon data records from 1945 to 1981 for the western North Pacific Ocean and 1900 to 1981 for the North Indian Ocean.

(3) HPAC -- Forecast positions are generated from a blend of climatology and persistence. The 24-, 48- and 72-hour positions are equally weighted between climatology and persistence. Persistence is a straight line extension of a line connecting the current and 12-hour old positions. Climatology is based on data from 1945 to 1981 for the western North Pacific Ocean and 1900 to 1981 for the North Indian Ocean.

(4) CLIPER -- A statistical regression technique based on climatology, current intensity, position and past movement. This technique is used as a crude measure of real forecast skill when verifying forecast accuracy.

(5) COSMOS -- A Model Output Statistics (MOS) routine based on the geostrophic steering at the 850-, 700-, and 500-mb levels. The steering is derived from the HATTRACK point advection model run on Global prognostic fields from the FLENUM-OCEANCEN's NOGAPS prediction system. The MOS forecast is then blended with the 6-hour past movement to generate the forecast

track.

(6) Colorado State University Model (CSUM) -- A statistical-dynamic method developed by Matsumoto (1984) utilizes synoptic and persistence predictors by discretizing the forecast timeframe into three 24-hour time steps. Climatology is incorporated into the forecast via a stratification scheme based on the position of the tropical cyclone relative to the 500 mb subtropical ridge. Depending on whether the tropical cyclone is south, on, or north of the ridge, three sets of regression equations are used to determine the north-south and east-west displacements

(7) One-way Interactive Tropical Cyclone Model (OTCM) -- A coarse-mesh, three-layer in the vertical, primitive equation model with a 205 km grid spacing over a 6400 x 4700 km domain. The model's fields are computed around a bogus, digitized cyclone vortex using FLENUMOCEANCEN's Numerical Variational Analysis (NVA) or NOGAPS prognostic fields for the specified valid time. The past motion of the tropical cyclone is compared to initial steering fields and a bias correction is computed and applied to the model. FLENUMOCEANCEN's NOGAPS global prognostic fields are used at 12-hour intervals to update the model's boundaries. The resultant forecast positions are derived by locating the 850 mb vortex at six-hour intervals to 72-hours.

(8) TAPT -- An empirical technique which utilizes upper-tropospheric wind fields to estimate acceleration associated with the tropical cyclone's interaction with the mid-latitude westerlies. It includes guidelines for the duration of acceleration, upper-limits, and probable path of the cyclone.

(9) TYAN -- An updated analog program which combines the earlier versions TYFN 75 and INJAN 74. The program scans a 30-year climatology with a similar history (within a specified acceptance envelope) to the current tropical cyclone. For the western North

Pacific Ocean, three forecasts of position and intensity are provided for 24-, 48-, and 72-hours: RECR - a weighted mean of all tropical cyclones which were categorized as "recurving" during their best track period; STRA - a weighted mean of all accepted tropical cyclones which were categorized as moving "straight" (westward) during their best track period; TOTL - a weighted mean of all accepted tropical cyclones, including those used in the RECR and STRA forecast. For the North Indian Ocean, a single (total) forecast track is provided for the 12-hour intervals to 72-hours.

(10) DVORAK -- An estimation of tropical cyclone's current and 24-hour forecast intensity is made from interpolation of satellite imagery (DVORAK, 1984) and provided to the forecaster. These intensity estimates are used in conjunction with other intensity related data and trends to forecast tropical cyclone intensity.

(11) HOLLAND/MARTIN -- The technique adapts an earlier work (Holland, 1980) and specifically addresses the need for realistic 30-, 50- and 100-kt wind radii around tropical cyclones. It solves equations for basic gradient wind relations within the tropical cyclone area, using input parameters obtained from enhanced infrared satellite imagery. For the first time, diagnosis also includes an asymmetric area of winds caused by tropical cyclone movement. Size and intensity parameters are also used to diagnose internal steering components of tropical cyclone motion known collectively as "Beta-drift". The Holland/Martin wind radii technique replaces the more general Huntley (1980) technique.

### c. Testing and Results

A comparison of selected techniques is included in Table 5-8 for all western North Pacific tropical cyclones, Table 5-9 for all North Indian Ocean tropical cyclones and Table 5-10 for the southern hemisphere. In these tables, "x-axis" refers to techniques listed vertically. For example (Table 5-8) in the 273 cases available for a (homogeneous) comparison, the

average forecast error at 24-hours was 130 nm (241 km) for TOTL and 137 nm (254 km) for RECR. The difference of 7 nm (13 km) is shown in the lower right. (Differences are not

always exact, due to computational round-off which occurs for each of the cases available for comparison).





TABLE 5-10

1988 ERROR STATISTICS FOR SELECTED OBJECTIVE TECHNIQUES  
IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

## 24-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)

	JTWC	OTCM		HPAC	CLIM		XTRP
JTWC	156 146	146 0					
OTCM	129 125	146 -21	142 122	122 0			
HPAC	143 126	147 -21	141 121	121 0	156 124	124 0	
CLIM	144 160	147 13	142 154	122 32	156 158	124 34	157 158 158 0
XTRP	147 136	148 -12	141 134	121 13	156 136	124 12	156 136 158 -22 161 139 139 0

## 48-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)

	JTWC	OTCM		HPAC	CLIM		XTRP
JTWC	112 290	290 0					
OTCM	91 237	274 -37	121 238	238 0			
HPAC	104 226	279 -53	120 219	236 -17	135 219	219 0	
CLIM	105 270	279 -9	121 272	238 34	135 271	219 52	136 272 272 0
XTRP	107 294	289 5	120 277	236 41	135 280	219 61	135 280 271 9 138 283 283 0

JTWC - OFFICIAL JTWC FORECAST  
 OTCM - ONE-WAY TROPICAL CYCLONE MODEL  
 TOTAL - TOTAL ANALOG (TYAN 78)  
 HPAC - HALF CLIMATOLOGY AND PERSISTENCE BLEND  
 CLIM - CLIMATOLOGY  
 XTRP - 12-HOUR EXTRAPOLATION

## 72-HOUR MEAN FORECAST ERROR (NM)

	OTCM	HPAC		CLIM	XTRP			
OTCM	92 368	368 0						
HPAC	92 329	368 -39	113 334	334 0				
CLIM	92 444	368 76	113 431	334 97	113 431	431 0		
XTRP	92 405	368 37	113 415	334 81	113 415	431 -16	114 412	412 0

Intentionally left blank.